United Nations A/52/PV.40

General Assembly
Fifty-second Session

Official Records

40th plenary meeting
Thursday, 30 October 1997, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Udovenko . . . . . (Ukraine)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 15

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs

(b) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council

The President: This morning the General Assembly will proceed to the election of 18 members of the Economic and Social Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 1997.

The 18 outgoing members are Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Colombia, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, India, Jamaica, Luxembourg, Malaysia, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Poland, South Africa, the Sudan, Thailand, Uganda and the United States of America.

I should like to remind members of the Assembly that, as of 1 January 1998, the following States will continue to be represented on the Economic and Social Council: Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chile, China, Cuba, the Czech Republic, Djibouti, El Salvador, Finland, France, Gabon, the Gambia, Germany, Guyana, Iceland, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Mexico, Mozambique, Nicaragua, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zambia. The names of these 36 States should therefore not appear on the ballots.

In accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971, and taking into account the number of States which will remain members of the Council after 1 January 1998, the 18 members should be elected as follows: five from African States, four from Asian States, two from Eastern European States, three from Latin American and Caribbean States and four from Western European and other States. The ballot papers reflect this pattern.

I should like to inform the Assembly that the number of candidates, not exceeding the number of seats to be filled, receiving the greatest number of votes and a two-thirds majority of those present and voting will be declared elected. In the case of a tie vote for a remaining seat, there will be a restricted ballot limited to those candidates which have obtained an equal number of votes.

May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to this procedure?

It was so decided.

The President: In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot, and there shall be no nominations.

Regarding candidatures, I have been informed by the Chairmen of the regional groups that, for the five vacant seats from among the African States, the five endorsed candidates are Algeria, the Comoros, Lesotho, Mauritius and Sierra Leone.

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Required two-thirds majority:	115
Number of votes obtained:	
Peru	71
Saint Lucia	55
Guatemala	46

The President: Since no candidate obtained the required two-thirds majority in the previous ballot, there still remains one seat to be filled from among the Latin American and Caribbean States. We must therefore proceed to another unrestricted ballot.

This sixth round of balloting is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

Ballot papers marked "D" will now be distributed. May I request representatives to write on the ballot papers marked "D", for the Latin American and Caribbean States, the name of the one State for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers marked "D" bearing more than one name will be declared invalid.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Silva (Angola), Mr. Thinley (Bhutan), Mr. Jerónimo (Portugal) and Mrs. Kimliková (Slovakia), acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The President: I call on the representative of Antigua and Barbuda on a point of order.

Mr. Lewis (Antigua and Barbuda): I have been assured by the delegations of Guatemala, Peru, Saint Lucia and other members of the group of Latin American and Caribbean States that the representative of Guatemala had sought to announce that he was withdrawing from the present round of voting as the result of an agreement made among the three candidates. Unfortunately, the President was unaware of this, and I would consequently request that the ballots collected for the sixth round be declared void and that new ballots be distributed on the clear understanding that the two candidates are Peru and Saint Lucia.

The President: I call on the representative of Guatemala on a point of order.

Mr. Martini Herrera (Guatemala) (*interpretation from Spanish*): As soon as my delegation heard the results of this morning's first round of voting, I raised my country's name plate in an attempt to secure the attention of the President so that I could withdraw our candidature. This was in accordance with our agreement with the other two candidates.

Guatemala sincerely thanks friendly countries for their support and for their expression of confidence that small countries and countries seeking the equitable distribution of important seats in the Organization can also be elected to such posts. Guatemala has always respected, and will continue to respect, voting arrangements with other countries, and now withdraws its candidature in favour of that of Saint Lucia, the candidate endorsed by the Caribbean Community.

The President: I call on the representative of Swaziland on a point of order.

Mr. Dlamini (Swaziland): I do not know if this is a point of order or a request for clarification. While my delegation sympathizes fully with the statements just made, it would have been proper for them to have been made before we started voting. As it is, I am concerned that the voting should be guided by the rules of procedure. My delegation would be happy if the President would reflect before a decision is taken to discount the votes we have cast.

I sympathize with the President: we seem to be conversing with certain specific delegations, which, in my view, is not in keeping with the traditions of the General Assembly. My ballot is in the box; I have made my decision; and the positions recently expressed are likely to distort the action of my delegation. We are prepared to jump on any bandwagon, but this is setting a bad precedent.

The President: The proposals made by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda and of Guatemala were made during a vote, and in accordance with the rules of procedure, it is only points of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting that are permissible at that time. We must, however, be guided not only by the rules of procedure, but by logic.

Therefore, I wish to make the following ruling, somewhat in keeping with the statement of the representative of Swaziland: that we proceed to count the votes, announce the result of the voting, and then proceed to a new round of voting taking into consideration the statements just made by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda and of Guatemala. This would be in

accordance with the rules of procedure. May I take it that this is the wish of the General Assembly?

It was so decided.

The meeting was suspended at noon and resumed at 12.15 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group D — Latin American and Caribbean States

Number of ballot papers:	170
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	170
Abstentions:	2
Number of members voting:	168
Required two-thirds majority:	112
Number of votes obtained:	
Peru	76
Saint Lucia	65
Guatemala	27

The President: Since no candidate obtained the required two-thirds majority in the previous ballot, there still remains one seat to be filled from among the Latin American and Caribbean States. We must therefore proceed to another unrestricted ballot, taking into consideration the statements made by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda and of Guatemala.

This seventh round of balloting is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

Ballot papers marked "D" will now be distributed. May I request representatives to write on the ballot papers marked "D", for the Latin American and Caribbean States, the name of the one State for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers marked "D" bearing more than one name will be declared invalid.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Silva (Angola), Mr. Thinley (Bhutan), Mr. Jerónimo (Portugal) and Mrs. Kimliková (Slovakia), acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 12.25 p.m. and resumed at 12.40 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group D — Latin American and Caribbean States

Number of ballot papers:	168
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	168
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	167
Required two-thirds majority:	112
Number of votes obtained:	
Saint Lucia	89
Peru	78

The President: Since no candidate obtained the required two-thirds majority in the previous ballot, there still remains one seat to be filled from among the Latin American and Caribbean States. In accordance with the rules of procedure we should continue with a series of restricted ballots. This is in accordance with rule 94, which states that if three such unrestricted ballots are inconclusive the next three ballots shall be restricted to the candidates who obtained the greatest number of votes in the third of the unrestricted ballots.

However, in view of the lateness of the hour, I propose that we postpone further balloting to a later date to be announced. As there is no objection, may I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that proposal?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group B — Asian States

Number of ballot papers:	175
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	175
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	175
Required two-thirds majority:	117
Number of votes obtained:	
India	111
Malaysia	94
Oman	83
Qatar	56

Group C — Eastern European States

Number of ballot papers:	175
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	175
Abstentions:	3
Number of members voting:	172
Required two-thirds majority:	115
Number of votes obtained:	
Poland	98
Georgia	74

Group D — Latin American and Caribbean States

Number of ballot papers:	175
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	175
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	175
Required two-thirds majority:	117
Number of votes obtained:	
Brazil	119
Peru	99
Guatemala	78
Saint Lucia	42

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, Brazil was elected a member of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1998.

The President: I congratulate the State that has been elected a member of the Economic and Social Council.

There remain two seats from among the Asian States, one from among the Eastern European States and one from among the Latin American and Caribbean States to be filled.

In accordance with the rules of procedure, we should continue with the series of restricted ballots. However, in view of the late hour, I propose that we postpone further balloting until 3 p.m.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.